

Amendment to the Claims:

The claims under examination in this application, including their current status and changes made in this paper, are respectfully presented.

42 (currently amended). In a bi-directional data transmission system that facilitates communications between a plurality of remote units and a central unit using a symbol-based discrete multi-carrier transmission scheme that has a multiplicity of discrete sub-channels provided for facilitating upstream communications between the plurality of remote units and the central unit, a method of informing the central unit of the transmission requirements of a remote unit, the method comprising the steps of:

in a normal polled transmission mode, transmitting a communication access request from a selected first remote unit to the central unit during a selected one of a plurality of symbol periods in a sequence, the communication access request not including a unique remote unit identifier identifying the selected first remote unit;

responsive to receiving a command from the central unit indicating that a fast access transmission mode is available, transmitting, using a fast access transmission mode, a the communication access request from a the selected first remote unit to the central unit during any of the plurality of symbol periods in the sequence, the communication access request comprising a unique remote unit identifier identifying the selected first remote unit and being transmitted from the selected first remote unit on at least one unused sub-channel using a modulation scheme that does not require equalization to decode at the central unit; and

allocating at least one sub-channel to the selected first remote unit in response to the communication access request for facilitating upstream communications between the selected first remote unit and the central unit.

43 (original). The method of claim 42 wherein:
said communication access request further comprises a data transmission request signal;
and

the data transmission request is a defined data packet request signal, and wherein the central unit allocates sufficient sub-channels to the selected first remote unit such that the selected first remote unit can transmit a data packet in conformance with stored defined data packet transmission requirements associated with the selected first remote unit, the stored defined data packet transmission requirements being known to the central unit prior to the receipt of the defined data packet request signal.

44 (canceled).